MINERAL KING DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING AGENDA
February 27, 1993

I. Call to order

II. Winter Security

III. Treasurer's Report

IV. 1993-94 Dues/Security Fees

V. Proposed Slate of Officers 1993-94

VI. New Business
    A. Survey anaylsis
    B. Action plan

VII. Koch/Asay plaques

2023.009.0448 a

MINERAL KING DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 1993

I. Call to order

II. Winter Security-actual winter security did not start until early February, the ranger's name is Tom Parrrack. He will be staying at Lookout Point, and can be reached at 565-3411, essentially between 9-5 daily. There was a good snowpack as of the end of January(reported by Roger Blain) and substantially more since then. No doubt there will be some snow damage to some cabins this year.

III. Treasurer's Report-There is currently $1408 in the checking account and $1826 in the savings account for an approximate total of $3234. We are sending the NPS $965 for this season's security fund. (Carryover of $656 from last year)

IV. 1993-94 Dues/Security Fees-There was discussion about whether or not there was a need to change the fee structure for the upcoming season and it was decided to maintain the same amounts, $10 for membership and $30 for security. If there had of been security provided from November through January, our contribution would have been substatially higher.

V. Proposed Slate of Officers 1993-94 President, Jim Ingram. Vice-President, Stuart Hendricks. Secretary, Sharon Devol. Treasurer, Les Reynolds. Park Liason, Jim Barton.

VI. New Business

A. Propane Safety-Will put section in Spring newsletter dealing with safety of cabin propane systems. There have been many tragic incidents this year involving gas leaks in cabins. Will check with SUBURBAN PROPANE in Visalia for safety pointers.

B. Action plan- There was an overwhelming positive response to the survey circulated among the cabin owners of record (actual permittees) on mounting an Association effort to amend the legislation regarding permit phaseout in the MK area. Ruth Shepherd passed out a small booklet she prepared that outlines a basic argument against elimination. The info. is for Board discussion only. There are typos and mistakes and Ruth requested that all the Board members review the material, make comments, corrections and suggestions and mail them to her by April 1st, so that she may make another draft of the booklet. Her address is 1765 E. 26th, Eugene, OR 97403 (503) 343-7888. There are also blanks that we need to fill in regarding technical facts, MKPS info., etc.

We, as a group must identify all of the possible local opposition to our goal, ie. Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, etc., win them over with our argument or at least make sure they will remain neutral. This step will require face to face meetings with these people and we should have something from them in writing, no verbal agreements.

2623.009.04486

After dealing with possible local opposition, we need to meet with Dooley, Lehman and Bill Thomas (Bakersfield Congr.), make a winning presentation and enlist their support in our effort. The Congressmen undoubtedly will want to know where the Sierra Club etc. stands on our proposal? We need support from the area Representitives and more importantly their staff in the further formulation and execution of our work program.

It is a given that a number of MK families are terrified of the prospect of the Association filing suit against the NPS to prevent the removal of cabins that are currently in jeopardy. But we must evaluate all of the possible merits of legal action and be ready to act quickly. All of the permits will terminate and be up for review in December of 1995. The Cochrun and Whitney permits (West MK) will not be renewed and there will be some more deaths in the meantime. We cannot allow the NPS to establish precedent in loss of permits and cabins. Congressional contacts have already asked the question "Why did you wait so long?" A possible starting point is for someone like Larry Cochrun to file suit and better yet to have the entire group of permittees join in. Either we stand united together, or we will fall one by one. There are some possible legal points that can be raised about the permit system, ie. multiple names or preferential treatment. It was decided to contact the Crowe family of Cabin Cove and also Merl Ledford for some possible legal advice.

The Association needs to develop a survey to be sent out to the members to ascertain among other things, the age of the permittee of record, where the cabin users live (to develop a larger political base) and the amount each cabin is used during the Summer.

VII. Adjournment

2023.009.0448 c

MINERAL KING DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
5357 N. Hazel
Fresno, CA 93711
(209) 432-4175

SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 66 survey letters were mailed out to cabin owners of record.(Mineral King & Cabin Cove) There were two or three cases where two surveys were mailed to one cabin because of dual ownership. As of February 13, 51 responses were returned, 49 were in favor of the proposal and 2 were against. Most of the survey sheets were returned without comment but some had short notes or quite long opinions included. I feel it is important for the DA Board to be aware of the comments.

The Roger's Clan,Cabin Cove-"Good Luck"
Bill Martin-as per phone conversation, the historical work can provide ammunition to convince Dooley, Lehman and Thomas to support.
Margaret Becker-This sounds like the best approach so far to accomplish the cabin owner's goals.
Larry Cochrun-Let me know what assistance if any is needed. I am personally interested in proceding with this effort with or without the "blessing" of all parties. Of course I have a real incentive to go forward! Thanks for all your help.
Neil & Elaine Stuart- We applaud your efforts and wish you well. We'll do anything we can to assist.
Les Avery-We'll need lots and lots of luck!
Joe Wollenman-Perhaps the transfer of permits should be limited to Family Members only, so to not become a REAL ESTATE venture.
Ken Savage-You are to be commended for the very professional way you have managed putting this together.(The praise belongs to Ruth S.)
David Cairns-Sorry for the delay. Amend the law is the only way to go.
Richard Jacobsen-transfer to family descendants only
Morene Barboni Snider-Our family never knew or were informed that we could put other members on our permit. Hope this works, we are all for it.
Jean Whitney Voorhees-All of us at the Whitney Cabin are willing to do most anything to help eliminate the "eviction clause". It is a very crucial issue in our case. I appreciate your efforts in getting the ball rolling towards this goal.
Nadine Hack-"As a member of the Crowley family, I'm responding to your survey regarding approaching Congress to amend the current bill pertaining to Mineral King. I'm in favor of all attempts to enable cabin owners to remain. I have had several contacts with Congressman George Miller's office.(He is Chairman of the House Interior Committee) The office feels that it would be difficult to garner support to amend the bill. The legal angle aimed at the unfairness of the implementation of the bill for the various families might be a better tactic. Thanks for all you do."
Lorine Willard-"My family and I have been reflecting on "A Proposal to Amend the Law" relating to the Mineral King Valley. We fully support the proposed deletion of the 24 words in the existing law. Also because the law says ".... upon notice to the Secretary by the lessee or permittee of his intention.....", we would like verification that a lease or permit can be modified to change the lessee/permittee. Without this prerogative, in case a lessee or permittee passes away without serving the notice to the Secretary, heirs might be barred from renewing or extending the lease or permit.

2023.009.0448 d

(Willard cont'd.)
In the case of my permit, John and I are the "permittees". I'm not sure if the permit can be modified to include one or more of my daughters as a permittee. If the MK Association's efforts succeed, I would certainly want to be able to make this modification.
Gordon Wood-I am returning the enclosed opinion survey you requested in your letter sent earlier this month. I have signed the statement of support contained in the letter and wholeheartedly embrace an effort to seek transfer privileges for exsiting cabin owners. Whereas our use permits grant us the privilege to utilize public land the cabins that sit on the land are the property of individual cabin owners. As such, each of us has a significant investment in our property. The absence of a transfer clause in the current law portends the total loss of that investment without any possible recourse. It is questionable that the public reaps any benefit when that results. I must also point out that cabin owners in the Fort Nelson area of the Spring River canyon, the next canyon over from the Kaweah River canyon and Mineral King, have the privileges we seek now for ourselves. Those cabin owners also have use permits on public land but can transfer their cabins by gift, bequeath or sale. I wish you the best in your efforts on this matter.
Peg Seaborn-"We strongly support the efforts of the MKDA to ask Congress to amend the present law which prevents cabin owners from transferring ownership of their cabins to anyone else. We have long contended that deleting the "eviction clause" from the law was the only possible way to ensure our families ongoing use of our cabins and are encouraged that the District Association is taking the preliminary steps in that direction. It will be an uphill battle and will take the effort and cooperation of the majority of the cabin owners; but worth the effort since this seems to be the only avenue open to us. We believe that this effort can be made in a manner which will not antagonize the NPS, taking into consideration that it is the agengy's obligation to enforce the law, not to make it. We feel that the cooperation of the cabin owners with the Park Service over time has and will defuse any objection on the part of the Service to the continuing occupancy of the cabins. Please be assured of our onging support for this effort. Let us know how we can help!"
Ron Kennedy-"As drafted this amendment is for financial gain, not to pass to next family member. The Park "Congress" gave us a good deal, to protect family rights is one thing, to ask for a financial gain is another, sorry no."
Alan & Margie Ewen-"Alan investigated this extensively with some legislative contacts and was advised that, with the environmental element and attitude in Congress(plus the new change of administration to take place next January), there was no possibility of a change in the existing bill. For that reason, and not wanting to alienate the Sequoia Park officials and the good relationship the Mineral King cabin owners enjoy with them, Alan and I do not support the effort to get the wording in the bill changed."

There are important points in all of the above comments. Please review them, sleep on them, whatever. It is a monumental task that we are approaching, but not insurmountable, if we realize that just as one takes a long, hard hike in Mineral King, the important thing is to keep putting one foot in front of the other, keep going and know that you will reach the pass or peak! We cannot make a half-hearted effort. We are working on a basic stategy outline, hope to have it in the mail to you before the meeting. See you all soon.

Peg

2023.009.0448e